

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal, the system comprising:

a processor that produces an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books;

a transmitter, connected to the processor, that transmits the electronic signal; and

a home subsystem, wherein the home subsystem includes:

a connector that receives the electronic signal;

means, connected to the connector, for selecting a portion of the textual data, comprising means for receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data;

a library comprising:

the transmitter and an electronic collection of electronic books, ordered and transmitted electronically via the transmitter, wherein in response to a transmitted order, the ordered electronic book is transmitted from a remote operations center to the home subsystem and stored in the library unit of the home subsystem until a selection is received to view the electronic book;

means for associating subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;

means for storing the subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;

means for receiving one of a subscriber-entered selection and a subscriber-defined selection;

a menu generator that determines and generates a particular library menu of the books located in the collection based on at least one of the received selection and a default menu and generates a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

means for selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on at least one of the subscriber-entered selection and the subscriber-defined selection; and

a display, connected to the connector, that displays the particular library menu of books relating to the determination of the menu generator, and displays the subscriber-created data associated with each of the books included in the particular library menu.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor produces the electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor produces the electronic signal as a signal to be transmitted over a telephone system.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display displays an electronic representation of books on a book shelf; related to the textual data.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display formats the menu according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, related to the textual data.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a microprocessor that receives an indication of a selected portion of the textual data

identified by the menu, and wherein the display displays the selected portion of the textual data.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display displays a default menu.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the connector comprises a set top terminal with a memory for storage of the selected textual data, and the display comprises a television.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a portable, hand-held viewer.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor comprises an encoder.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitter module comprises a broadcast television transmitter.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitter comprises a cable television transmitter.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the connector further comprises a cable connector, that extracts textual data from a video formatted composite signal.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises: a library unit connected to the connector, for processing the textual data, comprising:
digital logic for screening the textual data; and
a first memory for storing the textual data; and
a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for displaying the textual data as text.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the library unit and the viewer are contained within a common housing.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the viewer comprises:
a second memory for storing textual data received from the library unit;
a microprocessor, connected to the second memory, for controlling the functions of the viewer;
a digital display circuit, connected to the microprocessor, for creating displays; and
a liquid crystal display, connected to the digital display circuitry, for displaying text.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the second memory for storing textual data comprises a removable electronic card memory.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing text material in textual data form using an electronic signal and a transmission medium, comprising:
processing an electronic order for one or more electronic books;
transmitting the electronic order over a transmission medium from a library unit of a home subsystem to a remote operations center;
in response to the electronic order, coding textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books onto an electronic signal;
transmitting the electronic signal over a transmission medium from the remote operations center to the home subsystem to be stored in [[a]] the library unit of the home subsystem until the one or more electronic books is selected for viewing;
receiving the electronic signal from the transmission medium;

storing the textual data in an electronic collection at the subscriber's location;

associating subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the electronic collection;

storing the subscriber-created data associated with individual electronic books located in the electronic collection;

receiving one of a subscriber-entered selection and a subscriber-defined selection;

determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the books located in the electronic collection based on at least one of the received selection and a default menu and whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on at least one of the subscriber-entered selection and the subscriber-defined selection;

displaying the particular library menu relating to the determination along with the subscriber-created data associated with each of the books included in the particular library menu; and

receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the coding step comprises producing the electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying an electronic representation of books on a book shelf, related to the textual data.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises formatting the menu according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category, related to the textual data.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
receiving an indication of a selected portion of the textual data identified by the menu; and
displaying the selected portion of the textual data.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying a default menu.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the video signal from a set top terminal with a memory for storage of the selected textual data, and the displaying comprises using a television to display the menu.

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises using a portable, hand-held viewer to display the menu.

26. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the coding step comprises using an encoder for coding the textual data onto the electronic signal.

27. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the transmitting step comprises using a broadcast television transmitter for transmitting the electronic signal.

28. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the transmitting step comprises sending the textual data without any video, using the textual data to fill an entire channel of video, and using a cable television transmitter to send the textual data.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiving step comprises extracting textual data from the video formatted composite signal.

30. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises:

using a library unit connected to the connector for processing the textual data; and

using a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for displaying the textual data as text.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising using a common housing to contain the library unit and the viewer.

32-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal in response to the transmission of an electronic purchase order, comprising:

means for producing an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data;

means, connected to the producing means, for transmitting the electronic signal, in response to receiving ~~[[an]]~~ the electronic purchase order, from a remote operations center to a home subsystem, wherein the electronic text is stored in a library unit of the home subsystem until selected for viewing, and wherein the electronic purchase order is transmitted from the library unit to the remote operations center;

means for receiving the electronic signal;

means connected to the receiving means, for storing an electronic collection of the received electronic signal containing a representation of textual data at the location of the subscriber;

means for associating subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;

means for storing the subscriber-created data with individual electronic books located in the collection of electronic books;

means for receiving one of a subscriber-entered selection and a subscriber-defined selection;

means, connected to the storing means and the means for receiving the selection for determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the textual data located in the electronic collection based on the received selection and a default menu and whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

means, connected to the storing means for selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on at least one of the subscriber-entered selection and the subscriber-defined selection; and

means, connected to the receiving means, for displaying the particular library menu relating to the textual data and based upon the determination, and displaying the subscriber-created data associated with each of the books included in the particular library menu.

64-106. (Canceled)

107. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal, comprising:

a processor that produces an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books;

a transmitter, connected to the processor, that transmits the electronic signal; and a home subsystem, wherein the home subsystem includes:

a connector that receives the electronic signal;

selector, connected to the connector, for selecting a portion of the textual data, comprising input device for receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data;

a library comprising:

the transmitter and an electronic collection of electronic books, ordered and transmitted electronically via the transmitter, wherein in response to a transmitted order, the ordered electronic book is transmitted from a remote operations center to the home subsystem and stored in the library unit of the home subsystem until a selection is received to view the electronic book;

a receiving device for receiving one of a subscriber-enter criteria and a subscriber-defined criteria;

a menu generator that determines whether to generate a particular library menu of the books located in the collection according to the received selection from the subscriber and determines whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

a selecting device that selects search criteria for the searchable menu based on the subscriber-entered criteria and the subscriber-defined criteria;

a repository that stores the subscriber-entered criteria or the subscriber-created criteria; and

a display, connected to the connector, that displays the particular library menu relating to the determination of the menu generator.

108. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing text material in textual data form using an electronic signal and a transmission medium, comprising:

processing an electronic order for one or more electronic books;

transmitting the electronic order over a transmission medium from a library unit of a home subsystem to a remote operations center;

in response to the electronic order, coding textual data corresponding to one or more electronic books onto an electronic signal;

transmitting the electronic signal over a transmission medium from the remote operations center to the home subsystem to be stored in ~~[[a]]~~ the library unit of the home subsystem until the one or more electronic books is selected for viewing;

receiving the electronic signal from the transmission medium;

storing the textual data in an electronic collection at the subscriber's location;

receiving one of a subscriber-entered criteria and a subscriber-defined criteria;

determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the books located in the electronic collection according to the received selection from the subscriber and determining whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on the subscriber-entered criteria and the subscriber-defined criteria;

storing the subscriber-entered criteria or the subscriber-created criteria at the subscriber's location;
displaying the particular library menu relating to the determination;
and
receiving a subscriber entry indicating a title of an electronic book, wherein the title correlates to a portion of the textual data.

109. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal in response to the transmission of an electronic purchase order, comprising:

means for producing an electronic signal containing a representation of textual data;

means, connected to the producing means, for transmitting the electronic signal, in response to receiving ~~[[an]]~~ the electronic purchase order, from a remote operations center to a home subsystem, wherein the electronic text is stored in a library unit of the home subsystem until selected for viewing, wherein the electronic purchase order is transmitted from the library unit to the remote operations center;

means for receiving the electronic signal;

means, connected to the receiving means, for storing an electronic collection of the received electronic signal containing a representation of textual data and a subscriber-entered criteria, or a subscriber-created criteria at the location of the subscriber;

means for receiving one of a subscriber-entered criteria and a subscriber-defined criteria;

means, connected to the storing means, for determining whether to generate a particular library menu of the textual data located in the electronic collection according to the received selection and whether to generate a searchable menu of the electronic books in the electronic books collection;

means, connected to the storing means for selecting search criteria for the searchable menu based on the subscriber-entered criteria and the subscriber-defined criteria; and

means, connected to the receiving means, for displaying the particular library menu relating to the textual data and based upon the determination.